

II. REMARKS

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner accepts the earlier argumentation; in other words, the Examiner admits that Hogen-Esch does not present the direct coupling of a camera, a microphone and an earpiece with a cable to the mobile phone. However, the Examiner has presented a new reference, Kuwabara, with a cable 8a. In the abstract of Kuwabara, it is said that "Each input output device is connected to a signal processing means 7 via a cable 8a."

Umezawa discloses a portable video phone, i.e., deals with audio and video data. According to the abstract, "A battery section 15 is fitted to the head set 5 at the ear for which no speaker section 7 is fitted." This is the closest prior art, processing audio and video data and relating to its transmission in such a way that the user's hands are free.

Kunitomo presents a hands-free type speaker-microphone combination, but there is no camera. However, it should be noted that "the unit 21 receives power from a battery pack 20 of the telephone set 11 ..."

The Hogen-Esch reference relates to eliminating the feeling of insecurity due to criminality, by offering a security device in a stand-by state (see col. 1, lines 1 to 3). The Kuwabara invention is related to intensifying the connection in danger situations (see abstract, line 1). The Umezawa invention is related to the transmission of video and audio data so that the user's hands can be free (abstract, lines 1 to 3). Kunitomo presents a known hands-free system (abstract, lines 1 and 2).

The present invention, however, relates to a video conference system. In the present invention, the aim is to keep the elements compact and as applicable as possible for each use. The camera and the microphone must not be heavy, because they often hang supported by a cable from the speaker. Therefore, the cable must not be thick either, and the camera-microphone element must not be large and heavy. Consequently, the element is compact, lightweight and small in size.

In the Kuwabara and Umezawa references, head-mounted arrangements are presented. For example, the section "Solution" of Kuwabara begins with the words "a standard helmet 1" which implies that the safety arrangement is integrated in a standard helmet to make sure that in case of an emergency, it is possible to set up a connection. Such a helmet and communication means to be used during driving does not, relate to the implementation of a video conference system in which quite different features are sought, including usability, a continuous, fast and real-time connection, and a compact, convenient assembly, etc. The head-mounted arrangement of Umezawa must be kept on the head, even though the hands are holding a fire hose, as shown in Fig. 15. In this case, it is an essential feature of the head-mounted equipment that it remains in the correct position with a certain accuracy. This is often implemented, as shown in Fig. 1, by balancing the weight, for example, by means of a battery (15) on the other side of the speaker and the display. Such head-mounted devices often include additional weights to enhance placeability on the head and to keep the device remaining in position. However, this has nothing to do with the video conference system of the present invention. Furthermore, in head-mounted devices, the display is typically brought close to the user's eyes, in front of them, which is not convenient for use in a video conference system. Typical for

head-mounted systems, and particularly in emergency situations, it is important that the device remains on the head, in the correct position, whatever the situation.

In summary, the following points are made:

1. The references relate to such a different fields of technology that they cannot be considered prior art in the field of the present invention.

In this regard the CAFC has stated:

Two separate test define the scope of analogous prior art: (1) whether the art is from the same field of endeavor, regardless of the problem addressed and, (2) if the reference is not within the field of the inventor's endeavor, whether the reference still is reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the invention is involved. *In re Deminski*, 796 F.2d 436, 442 [230 USPQ 313] (Fed. Cir. 1986); see also *in re Wood*, 599 F.2d 1032, 1036 [202 USPQ 171] (CCPA 1979), also *In re Bigio*, 72 USPQ2d 1209, 1212.

Here none of the references are for video teleconferencing and none for the problems of compactness, light weight and small size.

2. The references are so different from each other that they cannot be combined.

In particular, Hogen-Esch concerns a security device and Kuwabara a helmet system. These cannot be combined to reject claims 1 and 7 due to their differences. Further, Umezawa cannot be combined with Hogen-Esch since it is also a helmet system. Similarly, Kumitoruo cannot be combined with the other references since it is apparently a backpack system.

3. A person skilled in the art would not be motivated to combined these references.

As stated in *Ex parte Granneman*, 68 USPQ2d, 1219, 1221:

For a *prima facie* case of obviousness to be established, the teachings from the prior art itself must appear to have suggested the claimed subject matter to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Rinehart*, 531 F.2d 1048, 1051, 189 USPQ 143, 147 (CCPA 1976). The mere fact that the prior art could be modified as proposed by the examiner is not sufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. See *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 1266, 23 USPQ2d 1780, 1783 (Fed. Cir. 1992). The examiner must explain why the prior art would have suggested to

one of ordinary skill in the art
the desirability of the
modification. See *Fritch*, 972
F.2d at 1266, 23 USPQ2d at 1783-
84.

Here there is absolutely no suggestion in any reference to combine them, nor would such a suggestion be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art.

4. Even if the references were some how combined, the result would not be the arrangement of the invention.

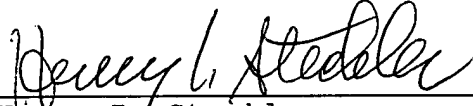
In particular, none of the references show a compact, light weight and small in size system.

Claims 1 and 7 recited that the transducers and camera are coupled to the mobile station by at least one cable. Since this is not in any of the references, even when taken in combination, the rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 USC 103 should be withdrawn.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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